

## Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 021279

THE FOL TEL FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED FEB 01, 1974  
TO NATO AND ALL NATO CAPITALS OECD PARIS EC BRUSSELS  
AND USNMR SHAPE IS REPTED:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 021279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO AND THE OIL/ENERGY CRISIS

REF: (A) USNATO 6262; (B) USNATO 6211;

(C) C-M(73)128 AND 132

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR REVIEW (REF A) OF THE FACILITIES  
OFFERED BY NATO FOR CONTRIBUTING TO A SOLUTION OF  
THE OIL/ENERGY PROBLEM. WE ARE AWARE OF NATO'S  
POTENTIAL BUT ARE UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO PROVIDE  
GUIDANCE CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OR NATURE OF  
ITS UTILIZATION. THE FEBRUARY 11 WASHINGTON ENERGY  
CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ARE  
EXPECTED TO DEFINE THE GENERAL APPROACH TO RESOLVING  
THE ENERGY PROBLEM, AND YOU WILL OF COURSE BE PROVIDED  
WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE DEVELOPMENTS ALONG

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WITH INSTRUCTIONS OR GUIDANCE AS APPROPRIATE.

2. IN THE INTERIM, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD ENCOURAGE  
NATO TO ADDRESS THREE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES:

A. FROM A POLITICAL STANDPOINT, THE NAC COULD BE MOST  
HELPFUL BY ENDORSING A COLLECTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE  
APPROACH TOWARD SOLVING THE ENERGY PROBLEM, AND BY  
DOING WHAT IT CAN TO ENCOURAGE THE POLITICAL WILL TOWARD  
ESTABLISHING SUCH AN APPROACH. SHOULD A GENERAL NAC

DISCUSSION ON THE ENERGY PROBLEM BE HELD BEFORE  
FEBRUARY 11, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON EXISTING GUIDANCE  
CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY INITIATIVES IN  
MAKING YOUR COMMENTS IN THIS AREA.

B. FROM A DEFENSE STANDPOINT, YOU SHOULD ENCOURAGE  
THE NAC TO RECOGNIZE THAT ITS MOST IMMEDIATE PRIORITY  
IS TO ENSURE THAT THE ENERGY CRISIS AFFECTS NATO'S  
DEFENSE POSTURE AS MINIMALLY AS POSSIBLE. THERE WAS  
WIDESPREAD CONCERN EXPRESSED ON THIS POINT AT THE DPC  
IN DECEMBER (REF B) WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN REITERATED  
BY SACEUR, AND THE FUEL SHORTAGE IS A PRACTICAL  
CONSIDERATION WHICH MERITS CONTINUAL CLOSE ATTENTION  
NOT ONLY TO THE STATUS OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OIL  
STOCK LEVELS BUT ALSO TO THE ABILITY OF WAR INDUSTRIES  
AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS TO FUNCTION ADEQUATELY IN  
SUPPORT OF NATO. IN THIS REGARD THE PETROLEUM PLANNING  
COMMITTEE (PPC) REPORT (REF C), WHICH TO OUR  
DISAPPOINTMENT WAS NOTED WITHOUT DISCUSSION IN THE NAC  
ON DECEMBER 19, APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY PROPOSAL ADVANCED  
TO DATE SUGGESTING STEPS TO MONITOR THE OIL CRISIS AND  
INCREASE PREPAREDNESS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS SHOULD THE  
SITUATION DETERIORATE.

C. FROM AN OPERATIONAL STANDPOINT, WE BELIEVE THE  
NAC SHOULD CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME  
BASIC "IN-HOUSE" ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDELINES AND TERMS  
OF REFERENCE FOR THE APPROPRIATE NATO BODIES TO FOLLOW  
IN IMPLEMENTING WHATEVER PRECAUTIONARY STEPS ARE  
DEEMED NECESSARY FOR NATO DURING THE OIL CRISIS. YOU  
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SHOULD DISCUSS THESE NEEDS WITH LUNS' STAFF, USING  
THE PPC REPORT AS A BASIS, AND POSSIBLY REOPEN NAC  
DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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